

## CLAIMS

1. A method for improving the signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) in a system for measuring flatness of a strip of rolled material, said system comprising at least one signal processor  
5 for determining said flatness and a measuring roll, having a number of measuring devices for force and pressure registration, each said device generating measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) depending on the contact between the strip and the measuring roll, wherein each said measurement signals  
10 ( $U_{pi}$ ) comprises a force component signal ( $U_{Fi}$ ) and a noise signal component, said method comprising the step of:
  - generating measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) by means of each measuring device depending on the contact between the strip and the measuring roll;  
15 - determining a time length ( $T_{tot}$ ), based on the measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ )
  - generating a time slot having the determined time length ( $T_{tot}$ );
  - synchronizing said time slot to the appearance of a  
20 force component ( $U_{Fi}$ ) on an input of at least one quantity processor of said signal processor; and
    - controlling at least one quantity processor to be open for registration of an incoming force component signal ( $U_{Fi}$ ) during said time slot and be closed until the next successive  
25 time slot appears.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein, said method comprises the steps of:

- generating a mean value signal ( $U_A$ ) using the force component signals ( $U_{Fi}$ ) which are generated within a time interval ( $T_g$ ), from a number of the measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ); and

- determining a time length ( $T_{tot}$ ), based on the mean value signal ( $U_A$ ).

10 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein, said method comprises the steps of:

- adding a number  $n$ ,  $n$  being a positive integer, of measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) generated within a small time period ( $T_g$ ) to a mean value determining circuit comprising at least one summation circuit for producing a summation signal ( $U_S$ );

- connecting said summation signal ( $U_S$ ) to a dividing circuit for dividing ( $U_S$ ) by the integer  $n$ , where  $n$  equals the number of added signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) to the summation circuit; and

20 - producing a mean value signal ( $U_A$ ) by said dividing circuit.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein, said method comprises the step of:

25 - adding a number  $n$ ,  $n$  being a positive integer, of measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) generated within a time

period ( $T_g$ ) to the mean value determining circuit comprising a microprocessor and applied software, stored in a memory that is connected to said microprocessor, wherein the software is adapted for calculating a mean value from a number of measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ).

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein, said method comprises the step of:

- storing and adding, to at least one second summation circuit, a number  $k$ ,  $k$  being a positive integer, of consecutive mean value signals ( $U_A$ ) to each other for further improvement of the S/N ratio.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein, the method comprises the step of:

- signal treating of the mean value signal ( $U_A$ ) by means of at least one of filtering and demodulating and rectifying the mean value ( $U_A$ ).

20. 7. A device for improving the signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) in a system for measuring flatness of a strip of rolled material, said system comprising at least one signal processor for determining said flatness and a measuring roll, having a number of measuring devices for force and pressure registration, each said device generating measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) depending on the contact between the strip and

the measuring roll, wherein each said measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) comprises a force component signal ( $U_{Fi}$ ) and a noise signal component, and wherein the device comprises:

a position synchronization processor arranged for

- 5 determining a time length ( $T_{tot}$ ) based on the measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) for generating a time slot having the determined time length ( $T_{tot}$ ), for synchronizing said time slot to the appearance of a force component signal ( $U_{Fi}$ ) on an input of at least one quantity processor of said signal
- 10 processor and for controlling at least one quantity processor to be open for registration of incoming force component signals ( $U_{Fi}$ ) during said time slot and be closed until the next successive time slot appears.

- 15 8. A device according to claim 7, further comprising:

a mean value determining circuit generating a mean value signal ( $U_A$ ) to the position synchronisation processor using the force component signals ( $U_{Fi}$ ) which are generated within a time interval ( $T_g$ ), from a number of said measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ).

- 25 9. A device according to claim 8, wherein, said mean value determining circuit comprises: at least one summation circuit for adding a number  $n$ ,  $n$  being an positive integer, of measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) generated within said time period ( $T_g$ ), said summation circuit producing a summation

signal ( $U_S$ ), which is connected to a dividing circuit for dividing ( $U_S$ ) by integer  $n$ , where  $n$  equals the number of added signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) to the summation circuit, said dividing circuit producing a mean value signal ( $U_A$ ).

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10. A device according to claim 8, wherein, said mean value determining circuit comprises: a microprocessor and applied software, stored in a memory connected to said microprocessor, the software adapted for calculating a mean value from a number of signals ( $U_{pi}$ ).

10 value from a number of signals ( $U_{pi}$ ).

11. A device according to claim 9 further comprising:  
at least one second summation circuit for storing and adding a  
number  $k$ ,  $k$  being a positive integer, of consecutive mean  
value signals ( $U_A$ ) to each other for further improvement of  
the S/N ratio.

15 value signals ( $U_A$ ) to each other for further improvement of  
the S/N ratio.

12. A device according to claim 11, further comprising:  
a signal treatment device comprising at least one of a filter  
device, a demodulating device; and a rectifying device for  
signal treatment of the mean value signal ( $U_A$ ) .

12. A device according to claim 11, further comprising:  
a signal treatment device comprising at least one of a filter  
20 device, a demodulating device; and a rectifying device for  
signal treatment of the mean value signal ( $U_A$ ) .

13. A device according to claim 9, wherein the position synchronisation processor is responsive to the mean value signal ( $U_A$ ) for determining the wrap angle ( $\alpha$ ) which is used in the system for determining the flatness.

14. The use of a device according to claim 7 in a  
rolling mill.

5        15. A computer program product containing software for  
carrying out the steps of claim 1.

16. A flatness determination signal for improving the  
signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) in a system for measuring flatness  
10 of a strip of rolled material and derived from at least one  
measurement signal ( $U_{pi}$ ) wherein each separate measurement  
signal ( $U_{pi}$ ) is generated by a corresponding measuring device  
of all measuring devices belonging to at least one of all  
measurement zones of a measuring roll and comprises one or  
15 more measurable values for calculating at least one of  
following quantities or vectors: strip tension vector  $T$ , wrap  
angel  $a$ , distributed force vector  $F_2$ , force vector  $F_{mi}$ ,  
flatness vector  $Ds_1$  N/mm<sup>2</sup> and/or a corresponding quantity  
flatness vector  $Ds_2$  I-unit.

20        17. A flatness determination signal according to  
claim 16, wherein said flatness determination signal comprises  
an input signal to a flatness determination unit for  
calculating at least one of said quantities or vectors.

18. A flatness determination signal according to  
claim 17, wherein said flatness determination signal comprises  
a force component signal ( $U_{Fi}$ ).

5        19. A flatness determination signal according to  
claim 18, said force component signal ( $U_{Fi}$ ) includes a train  
of electrical pulses.

10      20. A flatness determination signal according to  
claim 16, wherein a number of said separate measurement  
signals ( $U_{pi}$ ), each include a train of electrical pulses,  
synchronized and combined to a flatness determination signal  
for calculating at least one of said quantities or vectors.

15      21. A system for measuring flatness of a strip of rolled  
material, said system comprises at least one signal processor  
for determining said flatness and a measuring roll, having a  
number of measuring devices for force and pressure  
registration, said devices generating measurement output  
20 signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) depending on the contact between the strip and  
the measuring roll, wherein said measurement output signal  
( $U_{pi}$ ) has a force component signal ( $U_{Fi}$ ) and a noise signal  
component, and a device for improving the signal-to-noise  
ratio (S/N), comprising a position synchronisation processor  
25 arranged for determining a time length ( $T_{tot}$ ) based on the  
measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) for generating a time slot

having the determined time length ( $T_{tot}$ ), for synchronising said time slot to the appearance of a force component signal ( $U_{Fi}$ ) on an input of at least one quantity processor of said signal processor and for controlling at least one quantity processor to be open for registration of a incoming force component signals ( $U_{Fi}$ ) during said time slot and be closed until the next successive time slot appears.

22. A system according to claim 21, wherein said device comprises: a mean value determining circuit generating a mean value signal ( $U_A$ ) to the position synchronisation processor using the force component signals ( $U_{Fi}$ ) which are generated within a time interval ( $T_g$ ), from all or a number of said measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ).

23. A system according to claim 22, wherein said mean value determining circuit comprises: at least one summation circuit for adding a number  $n$ ,  $n$  being a positive integer, of measurement output signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) generated within said time period ( $T_g$ ), said summation circuit producing a summation signal ( $U_s$ ), which is connected to a dividing circuit for dividing ( $U_s$ ) by integer  $n$ , where  $n$  equals the number of added signals ( $U_{pi}$ ) to the summation circuit, said dividing circuit producing a mean value signal ( $U_A$ ).

24. A system according to claim 22, wherein said mean value determining circuit comprises: a microprocessor and applied software, stored in a memory connected to said microprocessor, the software adapted for calculating a mean 5 value from a number of signals ( $U_{pi}$ ).

25. A system according to claim 23, said device comprises: at least one second summation circuit for storing and adding a number  $k$ ,  $k$  being a positive integer, of 10 consecutive mean value signals ( $U_A$ ) to each other for further improvement of the S/N ratio.

26. A system according to claim 21, wherein the device comprises: a signal treatment device comprising at least one filter device or at least one demodulating device or at least 15 one rectifying device for signal treatment of the mean value signal ( $U_A$ ).

27. A system according to claim 21, wherein the position 20 synchronisation processor is responsive to the mean value signal ( $U_A$ ) for determining the wrap angle ( $a$ ), which is used in the system for determining the flatness.